

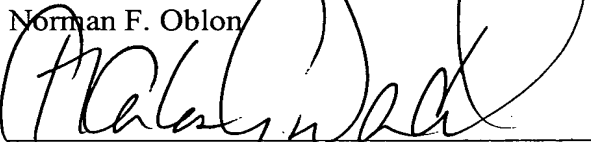
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to place the claims in more conventional U.S. patent format.

An early examination of Claims 1-14 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Charles A. Wendel, is written over the printed name and extends upwards into the 'Respectfully submitted,' line.

Charles A. Wendel  
Registration No. 24,453

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 03/06)  
CW/rac